

means for forwarding a first packet between a first host and a second host in accordance with a first record in said flow table [and] that corresponds said layer 2 addresses of said first and second hosts with ports associated with said first and second hosts, and

means for forwarding a second packet between a third host and a fourth host in accordance with a second record in said flow table [and] that corresponds said layer 3 addresses of said third and fourth hosts with ports associated with said third and fourth hosts.

44. (Amended) An apparatus for forwarding packets between ports, said ports associated with hosts having one or more of a layer 2 address, a layer 3 address and a socket number, said apparatus comprising:

a flow table having a plurality of records;

a switch module coupled to said ports and said flow table, said switch module comprising:

means for detecting layer 2 flow arriving from a first host and for forwarding a first packet between [the] said first host and a second host in accordance with a first record in said flow table [and] that corresponds said layer 2 addresses of said first and second hosts with ports associated with said first and second hosts, and

means for detecting layer 3 flow arriving from a third host and for forwarding a second packet between [the] said third host and a fourth host in accordance with a second record in said flow table [and] that corresponds said layer 3 addresses of said third and fourth hosts with ports associated with said third and fourth hosts, and